taluk at the twenty-first session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, Government ordered an enquiry into the question. The report of the Land Revenue Commissioner has been received and is under consideration.

Production of Salt in the Tamaracolam Factory.

68. **MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR** (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): (*a*) Are the Government aware of the fact that salt factories in Tamaracolam are deteriorating year after year in the matter of production of salt for want of good brine?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to arrange to supply brine from the sea without much delay?

(*c*) In view of the fact that the outturn in the factories is very poor for want of good brine, will the Government be pleased to demand from the licensee one-sixth of the total production as their share of *melvaram*, till they supply brine from the sea, as the licensees under the present state of affairs are unable to manufacture even the quantity of salt due to Government and as therefore they have to make constant applications for remission of salt?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): (*a*) The manufacture of salt in the Tamaracolam factories has been affected for want of good brine.

(*b*) Under the terms of the agreements executed by the licensees, they are bound to provide themselves with brine at their own cost. Government, however, have under consideration certain proposals made by the Excise Commissioner for the supply of sufficient brine of good quality to the factories, the cost being recovered from the licensees by the levy of a cess on the quantity of salt manufactured.

(*c*) In view of the obligation on the part of the licensees, Government are not bound to grant any remission to the licensees.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): The answer to part (*c*) is as follows:—

"In view of the obligation on the part of the licensees, Government are not bound to grant any remission to the licensees."

May I know from the member, in regard to cases where remissions have been granted to licensees, what the grounds were on which they were granted?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): I did not hear the question. Will the member kindly repeat it?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): The answer to part (*c*) runs as follows:—

"In view of the obligation on the part of the licensees, Government are not bound to grant any remission to the licensees".

In cases where remissions have been granted, what are the grounds on which they have been granted?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*) They have been granted on grounds considered by Government to be reasonable.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Page 1

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): What are those grounds?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): The grounds vary in each case.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I would like to have an idea of one or two such grounds.

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): The Member wants illustrative grounds? Act of God is one.

PRESIDENT: May I answer that question? Remissions are granted on grounds that the Government consider sufficient and reasonable.

Concession to the Avadhanials in respect of Salt due to Government.

69. **MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR** (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): (*a*) Is it a fact that the Government have granted remission to Messrs. Avadhanials in respect of the salt due to the Government for the years 1099 and 1100?

(*b*) Will they be pleased to extend the same concession to all the salt licensees, so that equal treatment may be meted out to all licensees?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): (*a*) Messrs. Venkitanarayana Avadhanial and Gurunatha Avadhanial, two of the shareholders of the Avadhanials' Factory, have been granted remission of 12,000 and 25,000 maunds of salt for 1099 and 1100, respectively.

(*b*) Each case is dealt with on its merits and no remission is granted as a matter of course; nor do Government recognise that any one is entitled to what is a pure matter of grace.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Two of the shareholders of the Avadhanials' Factory have been granted remissions of 12,000 and 25,000 maunds of salt for 1099 and 1100, respectively. May I know whether other shareholders of the same factory have applied for remission?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): No, so far as I remember.

Unlawful blocking up of the Watercourse near Manakkudi Lake.

70. **MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR** (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): (*a*) Are the Government aware of the fact that the three main salt factories on the western side of the Manakkudi lake were inundated in Vrischikam 1098, resulting in heavy loss on account of Mr. T. V. Krishna Aiyar's unlawful blocking up of the watercourse on the southern side of the factories?

(*b*) Have the Government taken any action in the matter of removing such unlawful blocking?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the laying out of the channel in the original condition, in order to avoid further damages?

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